The Mirror

OF

LITERATURE, AMUSEMENT, AND INSTRUCTION.

(PRICE TWOPENCE.)

No. 14.] SATURDAY, APRIL 8, 1843. [VOL. I. 1843.

Original Communications.

THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY, ST PETERSBURG.

THE city of Peter the Great has been so often described, that to go over its history would be tedious. From the taste the Russians have for building, and their love of change, it is, however, always presenting something new. In England, latterly, it has occupied more than one English writer, and from an interesting series of views taken of the public edifices in St Petersburg, recently brought under our notice, we cannot but concur with those who designate it a city of palaces.

Unlike the potentates of China, the despots of Russia have long delighted to engage those distinguished in the arts and sciences in other countries. Arbitrary as the government has always been, it has liberally requited those who obeyed its call. Even the proud and severe Catherine did not object to let her grandchildren gain knowledge from the revolutionist La Harpe. It is recorded of her that, on one occasion, when the preceptor had been discoursing with them on the government of Switzerland after his own fashion, she wrote on some of the exercises, which it might have been supposed could hardly prove agreeable to an absolute monarch,

the following approving note:—"Monsieur La Harpe, continuez vos leçons de cette sorte; vos sentiments me plaisent beaucoup."

The Hermitage and the Taurian Palace, in other days, were wonderful in their way. For some years the latter has been shorn of its splendour. Half a century ago it was thus described:—"The Taurian Palace consists of but a ground floor, but the body of the building, the wings whereof extend to a prodigious length, has over the portal two stories supported by columns, which are covered at top by a grand cupola. The entrance of the main building leads into an open space, in which, on both sides, lodging rooms project. Through this is the grand entrance into a quadrangular vestibule, surrounded by columns of extraordinary magnitude, and lighted from above by the windows of the second story. A gallery at a considerable height runs round it, for the orchestra, which is also provided with an organ. From this vestibule the spectator proceeds into the grand hall, through a double row of columns. If it be possible by verbal description to excite the impression which the sight of this temple of gigantic architecture produces, it can only be done by the most artless and simple representation. Let the reader then figure to himself a hall upwards of a hundred paces in length, proportionably broad, having the roof supported by a double colonnade of colossal pillars. At about half the height between these pillars are boxes, ornamented with silk curtains and festoons. In the passage formed by the double rows of pillars, hang at stated distances large crystal lustres from London, the lights of which are reflected by a mirror of uncommon size at each end of the room. The room itself has neither ornaments nor furniture, it being only designed for grand entertainments; but in each of the two semicircles that terminate the colonnades, stands a vase of carrara marble, both of which, by their extraordinary magnitude and the excellence of their workmanship, correspond with the grandeur and magnificence of the whole. Now let the reader, with his intellectual compasses, strike out a semicircle from one end of this great colonnade to the other, on the side facing the vestibule by which he entered, and this will inclose the winter garden, of itself an enormous building; the roof of which being too large to support itself without columns, these are made to resemble palm trees. The warmth is kept up by numerous flues in the walls and columns, and by leaden pipes with hot water running in various ramifications under ground beneath the parterres and grass plots. . . . On the death of Prince Potemkin the Empress adopted this as her autumnal palace; for which purpose the left wing was lengthened by taking in the whole side of a street. In making the necessary alterations fifteen hundred men were employed, who continued their work in the night by the light of torches, that it might be ready for the coming autumn."

If the palaces of Russia are grand, not less remarkable are the temples of religion. St Isaac's church is a magnificent edifice. That of our Lady of Kasan, and the *Ikonastases*, or Image, astonish all beholders. Here figures of the saints are exhibited in massy silver, said to have been partly contributed by Cossack piety after the war of 1814. The image of the Holy Virgin, removed from Kasan to Moscow, and from Moscow to St Petersburg, is here, and before this Kutusow knelt, in 1812, previous to taking the field, and devoutly prayed, and not in vain, that his might be the happiness to meet in arms the enemy of his country.

The church of the Holy Trinity at the head of this article is selected not as by any means the grandest in St Petersburg, but it will give some idea of the noble buildings there erected in honour of the Deity. "The exterior," says Mr Kohl, "furnishes an example of the singularly fantastic manner in which the Russians decorate their churches. Below the frieze of the indigo-blue cupola, studded with stars, an arabesque composed of flowers and vine leaves runs round the church. Separate wreaths are held by angels in couples, and in the centre, between each couple and the next, is introduced a crown of thorns. But for this painful token of *humanity!* you might fancy that you had before you the cheerful temple of some Grecian deity."

Half, and the more important half of the churches of St Petersburg, date from the present century.

Italy.—We learn that the sport afforded by Lord Chesterfield's fox-hounds has created a great sensation there: they have had some admirable runs in the Campagna; and almost all the aristocracy of Rome were assembled, either to witness or join in the chase. Lord Chesterfield has presented the pack to the society there, and a large subscription has been raised to keep it up.—*Diario di Roma.*—[This is going to Italy to recruit a fortune *à la* Chesterfield.

— Mrs Honey died on Sunday, of inflammation. As a fascinating actress and delightful singer, at the Minor theatres, she will be long remembered by playgoers. She was married at sixteen. Her husband, from whom she was separated, was drowned a few years back. She was only twenty-six years of age.

THE COUNTESS BURITA.

FEMALES, experience has shown, though called "the weaker sex," in trying situations have often exhibited a degree of courage and unflinching resolution which men could not surpass. The Spanish lady whose name is at the head of this article, was one of those bright ornaments of human nature who, with a heart attuned to every gentler sympathy,

> "With every beauty to inspire,
> Of love the soft and chaste desire,"

could in the moment of danger throw aside all ordinary habits, and brave the cannon's roar in the cause of her suffering countrymen.

It was in 1808 that the French undertook the siege of Zaragossa. They had, in the first instance, expected it to fall an easy conquest, but the fate of the first assailants, all of whom perished, taught them that the Arragonese were fixed to defend their city to the last. The gallant Palafox, then in his thirty-fourth year, commanded. He was nobly supported by the inhabitants, but the enemy accumulated immense means against the city, and to many the cause seemed utterly hopeless. Early in the month of June a powder magazine in the heart of the city blew up, and in a moment reduced one whole street to a heap of ruins. Immediately after this calamity, the French began to bombard the place, and twelve hundred shells and grenades were thrown into the fortress. The attack was directed principally against the gate called the Portillo. A sand-bag battery there was boldly defended by the besieged. During all these proceedings the Countess Burita, a young and beautiful woman, was constantly seen wherever the danger was greatest, cheering every one by the animated zeal she invariably manifested in the cause of her nation. In connexion with this particular attack on the Portillo, a humbler female gained undying fame. Augustina Zaragoza was a fine young woman, then twenty-two years of age, engaged to carry refreshments to the men employed at the battery. On one occasion the destructive fire of the French swept away every man. Those near hesitated for a moment, and shrunk from stepping into the places of the fallen. It was then that Augustina bounded forward, seized a lighted match which had remained in the hands of a dying artilleryman, and fired off a twenty-six pounder. At the same instant she sprang on the gun, which she vowed not to quit with life during the siege. She faithfully adhered to her resolution. Her courage rallied around her those who had at first been dismayed, and the battery was again worked with dreadful effect on the exasperated enemy.

The French, resolute to carry their object, pressed the siege more closely than ever; they destroyed the mills which supplied the city with flour, and expected that the place must submit from want of food, or from the failure of ammunition.

But in the midst of these difficulties Palafox converted some corn mills within the city into manufactories of gunpowder Monks were engaged as workmen; all the sulphur within the walls was secured; the earth of the streets was washed to furnish saltpetre, and charcoal was made of the stalks of hemp. The bombardment being continued on the night of the 2nd of August, the Foundling hospital, which had been made a receptacle for the sick and wounded, caught fire. Dreadful was the horror and confusion which ensued. In this terrible scene of suffering and dreadful apprehension, the Countess Burita and the women of the city, despising every danger, bravely rushed to the assistance of the unfortunate patients, and saved numbers who, but for their generous efforts, must have perished in the flames.

Presuming that the distress which prevailed, must have prepared the besieged for submission, the French commander, having made a breach and entered the city, sent the following brief summons:—

> "Head quarters, Santa Engracia.
> "Capitulation."

Palafox returned an answer almost as brief, and quite as determined:—

> "Head quarters, Zaragoza.
> "War to the knife."

The struggle then became most desperate. On each side of the street Cozo, a broad thoroughfare, the French and Spanish batteries were raised. The slaughter was great, and the dead bodies were thrown from the houses into the road. It was feared that the accumulation of putrid matter would destroy the besieged by contagious diseases; but a Spaniard could not attempt the removal of the dead without being shot. Upon this Palafox adopted the expedient of sending French prisoners, with ropes attached to their bodies, into the road, to bring in their fallen countrymen. They were spared while thus occupied by their comrades, and the dreaded evil was averted.

While these startling scenes were in the course of being multiplied, the Countess Burita was everywhere present where the peril was greatest or the necessity for relief most urgent. She had formed a corps of women who acted systematically under her orders, on a plan which she had laid down to assist the wounded and to carry wine and provisions to the soldiers while engaged with the enemy. Young, delicate, and accomplished in whatever could adorn

the boudoir or the drawing room, she acted with all the calmness of an old soldier in the heat of battle. Though shots and shells fell around her, she remained perfectly serene. Her orders were given as coolly as if it had been only a review; and personal danger, so far as might be judged from appearances, never entered her thoughts. Ambitious to relieve others, she had no leisure to fear for herself. That the peril was great, she must however, have been momentarily reminded by the slaughter made of her brave companions. The loss of women during the siege was fully proportionate to that of the men. Their zeal in the cause was such, that they sometimes exposed themselves to the fire of the enemy unnecessarily. Nothing, nothing could subdue the gallant spirit of the Countess. Her efforts were crowned eventually with success. In the night of the 13th of August, many of the buildings in the possession of the French were seen to be in flames; and on the following morning the besieged had the joy of finding that their enemy, in despair, had, under cover of darkness, commenced his retreat.

From that moment all was joy within the dilapidated walls. The most enthusiastic gratitude was expressed for the labours of the noble-minded lady who had acted so heroic a part; and the daring Augustina was not forgotten. Her courage and devotion were requited with a pension from the government, and she wore, as a mark of grateful distinction, a small shield of honour upon the sleeve of her gown, with the inscription "Zaragossa."

QUACKS IN THE TIME OF EDWARD III, MARY, AND ELIZABETH.

In the year 1552, Grig, a poulterer, in Surrey, "taken among the people for a prophet, in curing divers diseases by words and prayers, and saying he would take no money," was set on a scaffold in the town of Croydon, with a paper on his breast, declaring him to be an impostor. He was afterwards set on a pillory in Southwark.

In the reign of Queen Mary, a great number of empirical impostors were prosecuted and punished, not only in London but in other parts of the country; and during the reign of Queen Elizabeth, these prosecutions continued, the delinquents being fined various sums from 5*l.* to 20*l.*, and in many cases being imprisoned. Some of these quacks were patronised by persons of rank, who wrote to the President of the College on their behalf. Sir Francis Walsingham, Secretary of State, interceded on behalf of "Margaret Kennix, an outlandish ignorant sorry woman," but the college refused to remit the sentence (1581).

John Boffeat (1583) was liberated from prison on the intercession of a person of quality, upon condition that he would submit to any penalty the college might inflict, if he ever practised again.

Paul Fairfax (1588) was prosecuted for cheating the people by puffing the pretended virtues of a water which he called *Aqua Cælestis*. He was fined 5*l.* and imprisoned. The Lord Chamberlain addressed the college on his behalf, but to no purpose.

Paul Buck (1593), having been imprisoned for illegal practice, obtained letters of recommendation from Sir Francis Walsingham, the Lord High Admiral Howard, and Lord Essex.

John Lumkin, a surgeon (1593), being convicted of *mala praxis* on several patients, and being committed to prison, *propter malam praxin, et immodestos mores*, obtained letters from the Archbishop of Canterbury, and the Dean of Rochester, and was released on bail.—*Bell's Introduction.*

LITERARY PIRATES.

It really seems high time that some determined step should be taken to obtain an international law of copyright. The unceremonious way in which English works are seized upon and reprinted at a low price in America, is most fatal to the interest of British authors. What bookseller can pay a writer a respectable price for his work, if, as in the case of a novel, that which is published here at a guinea and a half, can, in the course of a month, be obtained from America for eighteenpence or two shillings.

The subject has been especially pressed on public attention in consequence of a recent piracy. An American journal announces, with some misgivings as to the honesty of the parties, that Brande's 'Dictionary of Science, Literature, and Art,' is now re-publishing in America at a price which precludes the future sale of a single copy of the original edition; for those who pay nothing to authors can, of course, afford to sell cheap. On this volume alone the Messrs Longman expended more than 6,000*l.*, whereof *above half was paid to authors.*

The American editor, while partly censuring what has been done, labours to the utmost to render the nefarious act profitable, by describing the work to be so valuable, that no one acquainted with the alphabet ought to remain without it. For such a notice the holders of the book owe the censor their best thanks, if they had not forwarded to him something more substantial. It is, in fact, an advertisement that stolen goods are to be had greatly below their intrinsic value; and if on such a

hint Jonathan do not run to buy, he has more morality than John Bull would prove himself to possess, under like circumstances.

Messrs Longmans have thought it necessary to notice the circumstance. They fairly expose the wrong, and show the grievance is great; but so far as the work in question is concerned, we are afraid they only make matters worse. There are plenty of Englishmen who will be glad to obtain such a book so much under price; and the temptation thus offered to smuggling will prove irresistible. All the vigilance of our custom-house officers, which in certain recent cases has caused *only* 1,300,000*l.* to be called for on account of losses sustained from frauds on the revenue! will not suffice to exclude American copies from England. Messrs Longmans were in this unfortunate position,—they were compelled to acquiesce in the wrong, or aggravate the evil by protesting against it.

But the complaints made in England on this subject are met by assertions from the other side of the Atlantic. We are told that the works of Fisher Ames, Buckminster, Hillhouse, Pickering, Sigourney, and Ware, are made equally free with here.

Most of our readers, we suspect, will be of opinion that as yet not much has been done in the way of retaliation. The 'North American Review,' however, comes forward with a formidable list. "Who," it is asked, "in looking over a list of titles, would suppose that 'Quebec and New York, or the Three Beauties,' was the same as 'Burton, or the Sieges;' and 'Cortes, or the Fall of Mexico,' a reprint of 'The Infidel;' that 'The Last Days of Aurelian' is no other than Mr Ware's 'Probus, or Rome in the Third Century;' and 'Montacute' only a new title for 'A New Home;' that Mr Muzzey's 'Young Maiden' and 'Young Wife' are *translated* into 'The *English* Maiden,' and the '*English* Wife,' and Mr Sparks's 'Life of Ledyard, the *American* Traveller,' is only made more attractive as 'The Memoirs of Ledyard, the *African* Traveller' (anon.); and two volumes of his 'Writings of Washington,' in twelve volumes, are reprinted with the original title, and apparently as if complete? Dr Harris's 'Natural History of the Bible;' Bancroft's Translation of Heeren's Politics of Greece; Mr Everett's Translation of Buttman's Greek Grammar, were all reprinted and sold as English books. Judge Story's 'Law of Bailments,' was 'chopped into fragments,' and appended here and there, by Mr Theobald, in his 'Notes on Sir William Jones.' These are a few specimens—in most of them the *preface*, &c., is sufficiently altered to conceal their origin, and in several the author's name is *suppressed*. One more may be mentioned:—Mr Neal, of Philadelphia, published, about 1839, a volume, called 'Charcoal Sketches,' with illustrations; his name appended in full. This volume appears *entire*, plates and all, in the *middle* of 'Pic-Nic Papers,' &c., 'edited by C. Dickens, Esq.,' 3 volumes, London, 1841. Mr Neal, no doubt, would have been proud of his company, if his patron had not introduced him as a *nameless* person! 'A volume has been appended' (to make the orthodox *three*), 'from an American source,' says the editor; 'but not a syllable about the name, either of author or book!'"

In this it must be confessed that there is something serious. We have not any doubt that there are plenty of mean and dishonest persons in England, as ready to appropriate anything that can be obtained from America, as there are Americans ready to pirate anything published in England. In proportion as this is true, America ought to be anxious to unite with us in putting down the nuisance. Connected with such a state of things, there is no interest that a Government pretending to anything like dignity or probity ought for a moment to protect. The pickpockets or the housebreakers in either country have as good a claim to favour. Wherever it occurs it is a course of simple thieving, which can only be tolerated when it assumes the shape of retaliation, but is most disgraceful to all who favour it, and likely to prove fatal to the best interests of literature, both in England and America. In the latter country, if it be ambitious of a national literature, the evil will be even greater than in England. Dr Channing says of America, "We must lament that, however we surpass other nations in providing elementary instruction, we fall behind many in provision for the liberal training of the intellect for forming great scholars, for communicating that profound knowledge, and that thirst for higher truths, which can alone originate a commanding literature. The truth ought to be known. There is among us much superficial knowledge, but little severe persevering research."

No, nor can it be expected that there ever will be, when, instead of aiming at doing something for themselves, the sons of America are content to appropriate and mangle the literature of England, because it pays.

ROASTING, BAKING, BROILING, AND BOILING.

Dr Hodgkin has supplied, in notes on his valuable lectures on 'The Means of promoting and preserving Health,' some useful practical remarks on the effects produced on meat by the various processes of roasting, baking, &c., which the careful

housewife may study with advantage. He says:—

"*Roasting.*—Though this is perhaps, on the whole, the best and most agreeable mode of dressing meat, the predominance of which may be regarded as forming the characteristic of English cooking, it is neither the most certain nor the most economical. The remarks of Dr Kitchener indicate that experience and tact are essential to complete success in roasting meat, yet I apprehend that a little attention to a few principles would simplify and shorten the road to success. Thus, having the meat in the right state for being dressed, judgment must be used, in so placing it before the fire that heat may be properly adapted to the size and shape of the joint, lest a thin part may be scorched and injured, whilst that which is more solid remains undone. It is an equally important point to adapt the fire to the joint; since it would be an injury to the meat, as well as a criminal waste of fuel, to consume as much upon a small piece as would suffice to dress a very large one. At the same time, it would be very false economy to employ too little fire and to spoil the meat, by attempting to dress it with inadequate heat. Good management will therefore not only at all times economize fuel by those contrivances which obtain the most available amount of heat from the same quantity of fuel, and by adapting the size of the fire to the quantity to be dressed, but also by taking care that the fire shall be so supplied that it may be most brisk at the time when the greatest heat and the clearest state are required. The crust which forms on the surface of roasted meat is, as I have already observed, of very important service in retaining the juices of the meat; but it is essential that this crust should not be formed too soon or too quickly, by which the exterior will be wasted, and rendered unpleasant and unwholesome, whilst the interior may remain in an uneatably raw state. The object must be, by the due regulation of the fire and the distance of the meat, to secure the heating of the whole mass, without scorching the surface. This result is no doubt somewhat influenced by the state of the surface of the meat itself. If the meat be wet and moist, it will furnish so much for evaporation, that the formation of the crust will be retarded, and, unless the joint be very large, the whole will be more or less injured. To avoid this error, it cannot be necessary to sacrifice cleanliness, by neglecting so much of ablution, as well as scraping, as a wholesome recollection of the hands, not always the cleanest, through which the meat has passed from the slaughter-house to the dresser, would suggest.

"The principles laid down with respect to roasting will partly apply to BROILING; but in proportion to the thinness of the steak or chop, it is important to secure the early formation of the crust by which the juices of the meat are to be retained; since, if these are allowed to run out, or are slowly evaporated, the meat will be injured in flavour and nutritive properties. In proportion to the greater exposure to the fire is care required that this should be in a proper state at the time at which it is wanted.

"I have little to add to the opinion I have already expressed regarding BAKING; except, that the objections to which it is liable may greatly vary in degree, according to the size of the oven, the number of joints dressed in it, and the success of contrivances employed to obviate them: perhaps the most elegant and effectual, and one of the least expensive, is that which consists in the employment of gas, in a close chamber of bright tin. The danger of producing empyreuma is so completely removed, that it is difficult to say whether the process ought not to be regarded as roasting, rather than baking.

"*Boiling.*—Although, in subjecting articles of food to the action of boiling water there is, in ordinary situations, no notable difference in the degree of heat, whether the water boil briskly or merely simmer, the effect produced may be greatly modified by a variety of circumstances. Thus the article to be dressed may be put into cold water, which may be slowly raised to the boiling point, or it may be suddenly plunged in water already arrived at ebullition: it may be boiled in much or little water: it may be boiled for a longer or shorter time: it may be kept in violent agitation, or be allowed to remain almost motionless. Each of these modes have their influence, which it may be desirable to shun, or to take advantage of. Thus immersion in boiling water, or quickly producing the boiling point, by promptly causing the coagulation of whatever is susceptible of this change, is likely to retain juices and other principles which might be extracted when a longer time is allowed for the subject under operation to be brought to the highest temperature. This method must consequently be unfavourable to the richness of the liquor: it may also occasion too great an inequality in the degree of dressing, and be unfavourable to tenderness. Slow boiling, on the contrary, will favour the extraction of whatever boiling water can dissolve, and promote the tenderness and breaking up of the more solid parts. Violent ebullition produces a compound effect, in which the influence of motion, as well as of heat, is concerned; and it may easily happen that whilst the different animal or vegetable principles are softened by heat and mois-

ture, their parts are more or less broken up and disturbed by the movements resulting from this cause. Vegetables lose their forms, and joints become detached, whilst the bones are deprived of their muscles and tendons. The question, whether much or little water should be employed, must be decided by the purpose to be served, by the liquor employed, and by the character of the substance to be dressed."

COMET OR NO COMET.

Comets, eclipses, and earthquakes have always been regarded by the ignorant and superstitious as omens of good or evil, but more generally the latter, or as a forewarning of Providence prior to some mighty event taking place; comets were, especially, ever considered by such with intense horror, as bringing with them, as a natural consequence, dire diseases, plagues, pestilence, war, and famine. To reason with them upon the folly of entertaining such absurd notions is, in most cases, useless. There are many persons in this wide world who delight in contemplating the horrible, and who seem to gloat over the misery they have created for themselves by so doing. The present appearance of a supposed comet, and the recent shock of an earthquake at Manchester, are ample topics for the lovers of the marvellous, and therefore we shall leave them to make the most of it. But, addressing ourselves to the more sensible portion of the community, we are led to inquire if this luminous streak of light, as seen by our astronomers and others, is really what some suppose it to be, the tail of a comet whisking in his erratic course through our system, or whether it be not an effect well known to astronomers, but seldom seen by us in this climate with such brilliancy as on the occasion when it was mistaken for the tail of a comet, we mean the zodiacal light, which is always at its maximum intensity at this season of the year; it is somewhat similar to the well-known nebulous appearance in the heavens called the milky way; it may be seen in a clear evening soon after sunset, about the months of March, April, and May, and before the rising of the sun at the opposite seasons; it consists of a lenticular-shaped cone of light extending obliquely from the horizon upwards, generally following the course of the sun's equator.

Astronomers are still, in some measure, undecided as to the true cause of this singular effect. That the sun is concerned in its production few dispute, but whether it is owing to some slight nebulosity of its atmosphere, or to electricity probably emitted with the light, is a problem still unsolved. The *semita luminosa*, or zodiacal light, was first noticed by Cassini in 1683, and it is the opinion of many that the recent appearance in the heavens is simply due to an unusual display of brilliancy, although Herschel, South, and Airy seem to think that they have caught a glimpse of the nucleus of the comet, yet it is, at best, but problematical, for

"Who shall decide when doctors disagree?"

B.

ALLOTMENTS OF LAND TO THE POOR.

The quantity of land let out to the poor by Lord Lansdowne in the parishes of Colne and Burnhill is 500 acres, in allotments from half an acre to two acres each, the number of tenants being nearly 700. The price is the same as was given by the farmers previous to giving up the land, and varies from 40s. to 60s. per acre. The crops chiefly grown are potatoes, the cabbage tribe, wheat, and barley. A Horticultural Society in Colne has been the means of promoting much good amongst the cottagers by giving prizes annually for vegetables, fruit, and separate prizes for allotment-cultivation.—Sir Henry Bunbury, who is most zealous in the cause, writes thus:—"Five-and-twenty years ago I began to assign some small portions of land (for I had but little at that time) to a few labourers. In every instance I found that the man improved in his circumstances, and as his circumstances became more easy he became more domestic and respectable in his conduct. With this encouragement I gladly seized opportunities of letting pieces of land to cottagers; and afterwards, having a good deal within my power, I extended the practice very widely; nor have I ever seen reason to doubt of its beneficial effects. I am inclined to suspect that gentlemen make the mistake of meddling too much with their allotments as to details. I should say, do not cramp the labourer—let him feel the pleasure of being a free man—stop him when he is going decidedly wrong—give him useful information—and encourage a pride in him as to his crops, and his pigs, and the neatness of his ground."—This is sound sense.

Mr Fox on the Soul.—In one of those interesting conversations by his bed side which preceded the death of Mr Fox, the statesman thus expressed himself on the state of the soul after death. "That it is immortal I am convinced. The existence of the Deity is a proof that spirit exists; why not, therefore, the soul of man? and if such an essence as the soul exists, it may exist for ever. I should have believed in the immortality of the soul though Christianity had never existed, but how it acts separated from the body is beyond my capacity."

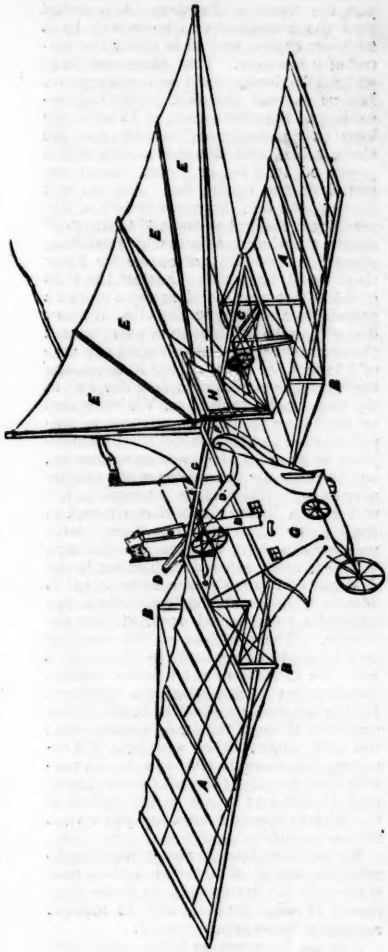
Arms. Gu., a lion rampant, within a bordure, engrailed, or. *Crest.* On a chapeau, gu., turned up ermine, a lion statant, or., the tail extended. *Supporters.* Two talbots, ar. *Motto.* "*Prêst d'accomplir.*" Ready to accomplish.

THE NOBLE HOUSE OF SHREWSBURY.

This truly old English family can trace its origin to a period considerably anterior to the Norman conquest. The first person of note, however, was Richard de Talbot, of whom we know nothing but the possessions and the name. He is mentioned in Domesday-book as holding nine hides of land from Walter Gifford, Earl of Buckingham. He married the daughter of Gerard de Gournay, by whom he had two sons, Geffrey, the ancestor of the Talbots of Thornhill and Bashall, in Yorkshire; and Hugh de Talbot, the ancestor of the House of Shrewsbury. The latter was appointed governor of Plessey Castle, in Essex, by his uncle, then in rebellion against Henry the First, having put the King's governor to death. Hugh, eventually became a monk, and retired into the Monastery of Beaubeck, in Normandy. One of his descendants, Sir George Talbot, who was charged with being concerned with the Earl of Lancaster in the murder of Piers de Gaveston, Earl of Cornwall, received a pardon for his share in the deed, and was summoned to Parliament as a Baron in 1331.

Sir John Talbot, the sixth Baron, was the first Earl. He was Lord Justice of Ireland in 1412, and Lord Lieutenant in 1414. Under the Duke of Bedford's regency he distinguished himself as a warrior. He sustained a severe defeat from the Maid of Orleans in 1429, and was made prisoner at the battle of Patay, and became prisoner to the reputed sorceress, first the scorn and then the terror of the British army. He was soon exchanged for Ambrose de Lore, and subsequent meritorious services caused him to be created Earl of Shrewsbury, May 20, 1441. His lordship was again appointed to the high post of Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, and raised to the peerage of that kingdom, July 17, 1445, by the title of Earl of Waterford. Increasing age did not abate his ardour to serve his country, and in his eightieth year, advancing to the relief of Chastillon, he gave battle to the French besieging army, July 20, 1553, and received a wound of which he died. He had been engaged in forty battles and skirmishes. Notwithstanding his great age, on the last day of his life he was as active as most men are in the vigour of manhood. From rank to rank he went on a little hackney, animating his men by appropriate exhortations to do their duty. They fought bravely, but the improvements then recently made in the French artillery rendered personal valour comparatively unavailing. A shot from a culverin broke Talbot's thigh. Dunois immediately advanced, and the son of Talbot, defending his fallen father, met with a glorious death. An archer plunged his dagger in the aged soldier's throat, and he expired. The body remained on the field that night, it was stripped, and was so disfigured by wounds, that in the morning it could not be recognised. An aged herald at length approached a corpse supposed to be his, and bending over the remains, he put his finger in the mouth of the dead man, to ascertain, by feeling for a remarkable space left in his gum by a tooth Talbot had lost, if it were really the General. He instantly satisfied himself that it was Talbot. "My poor master," he exclaimed, "it is then really you, God have mercy on your soul. I have for forty years been your herald at arms, and have worn this your coat, which now I restore." He then threw his coat on the remains of the veteran chief, and caused the body to be removed.

No War with America.—On the other side of the Atlantic there is no apprehension of a rupture with this country on the question of "Right of Visitation and Search." The 'New York Albion' declares it is no new claim set up by England; and justly remarks—"Without it, ships of war, in time of peace, would be useless; and they would sail the ocean, the jest and laughing-stock of pirates, and the contempt of mankind. As well might we establish a police, without the power to arrest criminals."



AERIAL STEAM CARRIAGE.

(*From a Correspondent.*)

The journals have generally teemed with the highest praise of Mr Henson's invention, and as a text for my remarks, I will make my observations upon the article which appeared in the 'Times' paper, as it seems, on reading it, to be the same in substance as those which have since appeared, and remain uncontradicted by the inventor.

"When it was announced some time ago, by the ordinary monthly lists of patents granted, that Mr Henson had invented a machine capable of conveying despatches and passengers through the air, the general impression was, that some moody and enthusiastic projector was about to exhibit the produce of *his day dreams*. Our readers may, therefore, be somewhat *surprised to learn* that this is in truth no visionary scheme, but a design of very scientific conception.

"We proceed to describe the machine, and its mode of flight. Its car, enclosed on all sides, and containing the passengers, managers, burden, and steam-engine, is suspended to the middle of a framework, so constructed, as to combine great strength with extreme lightness, and is covered with any woven texture which is moderately light and close. This main frame or expanded surface, which is 150 feet long by 30 feet wide, serves in the most important respects as wings; yet it is perfectly jointless and without vibratory motion. It advances through the air with one of its long sides foremost and a little elevated. To the middle of the other long side is joined the tail, of 50 feet in length, beneath which is the rudder. These important appendages effectually control the flight as to elevation and direction, and are governed by cords proceeding from the car. Situated at the back edge of the main frame are two sets of vanes or propellers, of 20 feet in diameter, driven by the steam engine.

"The chief peculiarities of this important member of the carriage are the respective constructions of its boiler and condenser. The former consists of hollow inverted truncated cones, arranged above and around the furnace; they are about 50 in number, and large enough to afford 100 square feet of evaporating surface, of which half is exposed to radiating heat. The condenser is an assemblage of small pipes exposed to the stream of air produced by the flight of the machine. It is found to produce a vacuum of from 5lb. to 8lb. to the square inch. The steam is employed in two cylinders, and is cut off at one-fourth of the stroke. Our engineering readers will be able to gather from these particulars, that the steam-engine is of about 20 horse power, supposing the evaporating power of the boiler to be equal, foot for foot, to that of the locomotive steam-engine.

"The area of the sustaining surface will be not less than 4,500 square feet; the weight to be sustained, including the carriage and its total burden, is estimated at 3,000lbs. The load is said to be considerably less per square foot than that of many birds. It may assist the conceptions of our non-mechanical readers, to add that

the general appearance of the machine is that of a gigantic bird with stationary wings; that the mechanical principles concerned in its support are strongly exemplified in the case of a kite; and that its progress is maintained by an application of power like that which propels a steam-boat. In the operations of nature, particularly in the flight of birds, will be found many striking illustrations of the principles on which the inventor has proceeded."

In the early part of the above quotation there is a happy allusion to the "day dreams of the projector," and it need not have been followed up by the addition, we should be "surprised to learn." However, it is not my intention to make any visionary remarks on a matter which is so abundantly visionary in itself. I wish to notice the subject seriously, to prove the folly of such a scheme for progressing through the air.

It is necessary for my argument to produce a scale of the pressure caused by the velocity of the wind, and I take that according to Rouse, which was collected with great care, and proved by facts arising from a considerable number of experiments, and published by the celebrated Smeaton in the 51st vol. of the 'Philosophical Transactions:'—

Velocity of the Wind.		Perpendicular force on one square foot in Avoirdupois pounds.	Common appellations of the forces of winds.
Miles in one hour.	Feet in one second.		
1	1·47	·005	Hardly perceptible.
2	2·93	·020	Just perceptible.
3	4·40	·044	
4	5.87	·079	Gentle pleasant wind.
5	7·33	·123	
10	14·67	·492	Pleasant gale.
15	22·00	1·107	
20	29·34	1·968	Very brisk.
25	36·67	3·075	
30	44·01	4·429	High wind.
35	51·34	6·027	
40	58·68	7·873	Very high.
45	66·01	9·963	
50	73·35	12·300	A storm or tempest.
60	88·02	17·715	A great storm.
80	117·36	31·490	A hurricane.
100	146·70	49·200	A hurricane that tears up trees, and carries before it buildings, &c.

What I have to say I shall endeavour to present without the aid of algebra or fractional parts, so as to make what I wish to convey perfectly intelligible to ordinary readers. The area of the wings, or sustaining surface, is about 4,500 square feet, and it is generally stated out of doors that this machine is to progress at a rate of 100 miles an hour. This I must set down as ridiculous. The velocity of the wind, by the above scale, shows that even trees and houses are carried away by its violence; and it matters not whether you pass through the air at that velocity, or the air passes by you, the result is the same. It is stated that the machine is to be moved by a 20 horse engine, and to be under the control of a manager. That these assertions will not be borne out I can easily prove. Let us suppose the wind is blowing, according to the above scale, at 15 miles per hour (a "*pleasant gale*," according to the above table), and therefore acting with a power of 1·107 lb., or rather above one pound on the square foot; and we will then assume that the wings or sails of the machine are laid at an angle of 45 degrees* against the wind, and the machine weighing altogether 3,000 lbs., of course we know there would be pressing against the sails of 4,500 feet area, a lifting force of half a pound† to each foot, or 2,250 lbs. We now desire that the machine shall pass through the atmosphere against this wind at a rate of 15 miles per hour, taking it *for granted* the manager can always *keep* the sail at the same angle, 45 degrees. We know that we shall then require a force equal to propelling the machine against a calm atmosphere of 30 miles, viz., 15 miles against us, and 15 miles for the power of the machinery to act. When this is accomplished, it will give a lifting force of one pound to the foot, or 4,500 lbs. The horse power necessary to drive this machine through the air is easily calculated. Taking, in the first place, a horse power to be equal to Messrs Bolton and Watt's statement, viz. 32,000 lbs. to be raised one foot high per minute. The principle of this machine may be easily understood: it is that of a kite; for it matters not whether the kite is laid at an angle against the wind, and having the string to hold it, or the kite is propelled through the air by a machine at the same angle. Each will form the resistance necessary to rise it in the air, provided the velocity of the *wind*, or the power used, is sufficient to act on the surface of the kite to a *greater elevating power* than its *own weight*.

We will calculate the power necessary to raise the weight of 3,000 lbs., and to pass it through the atmosphere as above at a rate of 15 miles per hour, and 15 miles of resistance by an opposing wind.

If in one hour you go thirty miles, how far do you go in one minute?—we know the answer is half a mile.

Well, we find we travel half a mile, or 880 yards, per minute, and we will take the statement of the inventor, that his "Aërial Machine," engine, engineers, manager, passengers, &c. &c., only weigh 3,000 lbs.

* I take this angle, not supposing it will ever be used; it is more familiar to most persons, and the argument is just the same as upon one much smaller.

† I take this on the broad principle, not going into decimal parts, which in a matter like this is of no importance, but might confuse the reader.

Our next question is this—what number of horse power will it take to drive and sustain 3,000 lbs., and carry through the air at a velocity of 880 yards, or 2,640 feet, in a minute?

I abstain from giving the figures of the arithmetical calculation, but multiplying the 3,000 lbs. by the number of feet per minute, and dividing it by 32,000 (Watt's calculation of horse power), the result will be that a 247 horse power will be found necessary to travel through the air at the rate of thirty miles an hour, taking all for granted that the machinery is perfect and will act. What can the twenty-horse engine do when it requires 247 horse power to propel it thirty miles per hour?

The following is the description of the machine as represented in the engraving, which is given without the canvas, that its structure may be the more clearly understood:—

A, A, the main frame, or wings, composed of the longitudinal pieces, &c., and the bow-like individual frames across them.

B, B, B, B, &c., upright posts, or standards, to the upper and lower ends of which metallic braces, shown by the single lines, are attached, supporting various points in the frame.

C, C, a longitudinal piece, which forms the outer boundary of the space required for the vanes, or propellers.

D, D, D, &c., the vanes, or propellers, mounted on shafts, as shown in the figure, and drawn by steam-engines by means of bands.

E, E, E, E, the tail, turning on a joint at *F*.

G, the car, containing the steam-engine, cargo, conductors, and passengers, in suitable compartments.

H, the rudder.

The covering of the wings and tail is of silk or linen: that of the wings is divided into three lengths for each end, joining each other at the double frames shown: this division facilitates the rapid reefing and spreading of the covering, which is effected by the cords running parallel with the longitudinal pieces, *a, a, a*, &c., of the wings. The tail and rudder are, in like manner, governed by cords proceeding from the car.

It may be as well to mention the action of the bird, with a few remarks upon it. The large pectoral muscles of the bird (viz., the breast), which constitute their great power of using the wings for flight, exceed and outweigh all the other muscles of their body. The same muscle in man is only about one-seventieth part of his other muscles, therefore it is futile at any time for man to attempt to raise himself by his own power acting on machinery. The flying of birds is thus performed: they spring from the ground, and at that moment expand their wings, and by their vibrating violently and perpendicularly against the air, raise themselves; the tail serves to steady the body, and is expanded and contracted, raised or depressed, at the will of the bird, to balance itself against different currents. The motion of the head to one side or the other serves as a guide to determine its course, by altering the centre of gravitation. They also have the power of using one wing more strongly than the other to make a sudden turn. Birds never fly upwards in a straight line, but form a parabola in ascent and descent in a similar manner to projectiles.

The earliest account of mechanical flying was made by Archytas, in the fourth century before the Christian era, of a wooden pigeon, and of which "Aulus Gellius" (Noctes Atticæ, lib. x, cap. 12), gives a story that it flew by mechanical powers and an *inclosed spirit*. This last sentence *is enough*. Many other projects have been started, but all have shared the same fate, and a *few necks broken* in their futile attempts.

SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS.

INSTITUTION OF CIVIL ENGINEERS.—TEST FOR SOVEREIGNS.—A paper was read by Mr Oldham, of the machine invented by Mr Cotton, the Governor of the Bank of England, for weighing sovereigns. The machine exhibited was made by Mr Napier, and was so delicate that it detected with precision a variation of a twelve thousand two hundred and fiftieth part of the weight of a sovereign. The coins are placed in a tube or hopper, from whence they are carried on to a small platform, which is suspended over a delicately poised beam, to the other end of which is appended the standard Mint weight. On setting the machine at work a sovereign is placed upon the platform, and if it is full weight a small tongue advances and strikes it off into a till appointed to receive it; but if it is light the platform sinks and brings it within the reach of another tongue, at a lower level, which advances at right angles to the former tongue, and pushes the coin into another till. Other coins succeed in rapid rotation, so that the machine can weigh and sort 10,000 sovereigns in six hours, while an expert teller can, at the utmost, only weigh between 3,000 and 4,000 coins by hand scales in the same time, and even then the optic nerve of the eye, by incessant straining, becomes fatigued, and errors occur.

ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF ENGLAND.—Sir F. Mackenzie presented a statement of his plan for establishing a Model Farm in each county of England and Wales, by public subscription, at an estimated sum of 117,297*l*.

ON THE DEATH OF MRS HONEY.

She falls, she passes to the tomb,
Not in the course of slow decay,
But in the glory of her bloom,
And in the zenith of her day.

"Mark!" such the solemn voice of Fate,
Surveyed the dazzling things of earth,
"How weak the prop—how brief the date
Of beauty and inspiring mirth!"

RURAL SONNET.

By the author of 'Spartacus,' 'The Cathedral Bell,' and other Tragedies.

APRIL.

The equinoctial gales are lull'd to rest;
The early singing-birds unite their strains;
And timid April, by the sun caress'd,
Now, with her breath of violets, walks the plains;
And, when her lord, as some enamour'd youth,
Dwells on the changeful colours of her brow,
She, like some maid, heart-certain of his truth,
Smiles through her tears for bliss to share his vow.
The days extend—in many-tinted green,
The buds unfurl their foliage; and the trees,
Which, promptest, bloom along the rural scene,
Show, like some dress'd regatta, in the breeze,
The swallows re-appear—and, hour by hour,
Both still, and moving, all mark spring's engendering power.

J. Jones.

Inner Temple, March 23, 1843.

A SMART AFFAIR.

Poor Mrs Sigourney we blame
For shewing such a lack of heart,
She answers—"I have made a name
And that I think is something *smart*."

The gentleman who dines the latest
Is in our street esteem'd the greatest;
But surely greatest he of all
Must be, who does not dine at all.

RICHMOND IN YORKSHIRE.

"Fuit illium et ingens gloria Teucrorum."

Mark by yon leaf-clad hill with woodlands rude,
Of birch and plane, where ring-doves nurse their brood;
Where the tall pine o'erlooks with haughty head
The rugged banks of Swale's uneven bed;
Based on the bosom of the towering rock
Unscath'd alike by time or tempest's shock,
The gloomy castle's cannon-furrow'd brow
Majestic frowns upon the woods below!
Mark well the massive coronal of wall!
The ivy mantles o'er the sunny hall,
That seems like desolation's trophies spread
Where taper-gleams reveal the lost and dead!
The chapel mark—the bell-tower's cumbrous weight,—
The slanting lattice of th' embattl'd height;
Where waving bannerols told the Norman power,
Now grows untouch'd "the crimson-tipped flower."

Behold, enshrined in meads of varied hue,
Old Eastby's walls fast fading from the view:
No more from yon grey towers at evening-dim
Resounds the deep'ning chime for vesper hymn,—
When hooded Friars have pass'd its isles along,
And made night echo to their holy song!
For when the weary world to sleep retire
Have thundering anthems shook the fretted choir;
But now, alas! the whistling breezes blow
Their mournful dirge within the vaults below.
Hushed are their chants; and where they loved to dwell,
Sad silence sleeps within her moss-clad cell.

While Memory, doting o'er past power and pride,
In spectral throngs beholds their shadows glide,
Till scared by morning's mantling tinge of grey
The Knight and Friar in vapour pass away;
Yet whispering to the heart, thro' life's short span,
Power is a *dream*—and but a *shadow*—man!

Grove lane. John F.

Reviews.

The Story-Teller.

This new periodical, conducted by Mr Bell, whose judgment, talents, and experience eminently qualify him to cater for the public, will, no doubt, attain the object of his ambition by furnishing a comprehensive 'Library of Minor Fictions.' The first number is playfully varied. One of its most striking *morceaux* we extract:—

THE THREE KNOCKS.

A Berkshire Legend.

At the beginning of the last, or close of the preceding century, a very skilful and eminent apothecary and surgeon resided in the outskirts of Newbury, as much beloved for his social qualities as he was valued for his knowledge of his profession. Amongst his patients and acquaintance was an elderly maiden lady of slender fortune, and of a sour and avaricious temper; these qualities were increased by a burden thrown upon her, which, sordid as was her nature, she could not avoid. An improvident brother died insolvent, and a beautiful girl of sixteen, his only child, was

left entirely to the unwilling protection of her aunt. Heartbroken at the loss of her father, harassed by the perpetual peevishness of her aunt, scantily fed, and poorly clad, the poor young creature sank under her change of circumstances, and became seriously ill. The good surgeon was called in, and speedily detected that the malady was mental.

One day, when alone with her, he said —"I see, my dear, what really ails you,—your aunt's treatment is killing you by inches,—I can do nothing for you, unless you will accept such a home as I can give you: if you can overlook the great disproportion in age, I think I could make it a happy home; you should have every comfort in my power to afford you, and at least it will be a happier life than that you lead at present." The young woman gratefully accepted the offer;—they were married, and for two years no persons could have been apparently better suited to each other, though the difference in age was more than thirty years.

At that period the surgeon received a letter from an intimate friend, an eminent physician in London, requesting as a favour that he would receive as a boarder for a few weeks, a young gentleman in whom he felt a particular interest: he described him as one highly talented and informed, who had by great industry and application attained considerable eminence at the bar, but whose health had sunk under the intense labour he had undergone through the winter; that consumptive symptoms had appeared, and nothing was likely to save his life but total rest from business, a change to good air, and the regular superintendence of a skilful medical man; and, knowing the skill and kindness of his friend, the airy situation of his house, and its capability to accommodate an inmate, he ventured to solicit an admittance for his young patient. The request was instantly granted, and the invalid took possession of a good apartment over the usual sitting-room, and received every attention from the surgeon and his wife.

To the latter this shortly became as dangerous as it was interesting; the invalid was attractive in person, and in every way formed to win the affections; he found his young companion (who by her husband's continual absence during his professional employment was continually alone with him) full of natural talent, but wholly uninformed; he took great delight in improving her mind, read and conversed with her, and every day increased their mutual interest in each other. Unhappily the young lawyer had imbibed many dangerous and sceptical opinions,—these he imparted to his pupil, and amongst others the total unbelief of a future state was impressed on her mind by the strong conviction he professed to entertain on the subject.

He remained through the summer months, and having much recovered his health, returned to town to resume his profession, leaving his unhappy victim a prey to melancholy, and unable to attend to the duties she had before so cheerfully fulfilled. The husband was grieved at the change, but wholly unsuspicious of the cause.

A few weeks of active employment brought on a return of consumption, and again the surgeon was applied to, and again received the destroyer of his peace, and bestowed every attention on a case which he was soon aware was hopeless. The unhappy young man had also a similar persuasion, and his mind appeared to suffer still more than his frame: doubts and terrors arose, and he continually held conversations with the wife, in which he stated these new impressions, and told her his greatest misery arose from the idea that he had perverted her religious principles, and that he should have to answer for the destruction of her soul as well as his own. But he frequently repeated, "If there be a future state, and a final judgment, and if it be possible for a departed spirit to return to earth, you shall have some warning when I am dead, which may decide your opinion."

A few weeks of great bodily and mental suffering terminated in his death; his unwearied nurse received his last breath, and with it a renewal of the solemn pledge he had before given. Worn down by grief and fatigue, she was unable to follow to the grave, but the good and unsuspecting husband, willing to show every regard to the dead, made the whole of his small establishment attend the burial.

She was left alone in her agony. During the latter part of the invalid's life, when he was seated in the chair by the fireside, a cane was placed across the arm with which he used to summon his watchful friend, when her domestic business took her away for a short time. At that period bells were not in common use; three distinct strokes on the floor gave the signal of her being wanted in the sick room, and it was promptly obeyed. A short time had elapsed after the funeral procession had disappeared, when she was roused from her stupor of grief by hearing in the room above the three strokes of the cane loudly and deliberately given. She started up, looked to the apartment, and on approaching the fireplace saw the cane which she had that very day placed in the corner of the room, leaning against the arm of the chair in the same position it had so long occupied in the life of her lover. When her husband returned from the church she was found cold and insensible, and stretched

on the hearth, on which she had fallen after her conviction that the pledge had been redeemed, the promised warning given. When she recovered her senses she requested to be left alone with her husband, and falling on her knees, confessed everything which had passed, and supplicated his forgiveness: it was granted by the kind-hearted old man, and with expressions of blame to himself for having exposed so young a creature to such a danger. She then requested to see the clergyman, who was a venerable and excellent man; to him also she made a full confession, and expressed the entire change of opinion which had been effected by the warning she had received. Whether her long attendance on a person in confirmed consumption had infected her with the disease, or whether grief and remorse acted fatally on a constitution naturally delicate, cannot now be known, but in little more than three months she sunk into an early grave.

Remarks on Medical Reform. By Sir James Clark. Murray.

We have here, in a second letter addressed to Sir James Graham, an able essay on the present state of medical education and medical practice. It is clearly shown by Sir James Clark, that though much has already been accomplished, much remains to be done. A more efficient control over practitioners, he contends, is wanting. There is no country, he tells us, "where so many irresponsible bodies possess the power of granting degrees in medicine, or of licensing medical practitioners—no two of them agreeing on the amount of instruction and qualifications required." The subject is one of great importance. It necessarily interests all classes. Sir James remarks—

"Upon the skill and judgment of the general practitioners depends mainly the health of the community: because they are, as we have seen, the ordinary attendants of the great body of the people; and the diseases of almost all ranks come under their care at their onset—the period, be it observed, when disease is much more under the control of efficient medical treatment than at any other: upon judicious management during the first few days—it may be hours—of an acute disease, depends very often the result of the case.

"The relation of the apothecary to the surgeon has been no less altered; and, as a consequence of this, the character of the surgeon's practice has undergone a remarkable change.

"Not many years have elapsed (some surgeons now living have, no doubt, witnessed the change) since surgeons of hospitals, and those who have been styled pure surgeons, were alone intrusted with the treatment of surgical diseases, and with the performance of all operations of any consequence. Patients with local disorders requiring operations were brought from great distances to London and other large towns where operating surgeons were only to be found. At present, on the contrary, general practitioners in the smaller towns, and even in villages over the whole country, are frequently called on to perform the most important operations in surgery, in cases where the patient must lose his life were immediate assistance not procured. A considerable part of the practice of the surgeons, as well as of the physicians, has thus fallen into the hands of the general practitioner; and the result has been that the surgeons, finding themselves deprived of a large share of what they were accustomed to consider their legitimate right, now undertake the treatment of purely medical as well as surgical diseases; differing in their practice from the general practitioners only in not attending to midwifery, and not supplying their patients with medicines.

"From this exposition of the relative position and functions of the three different classes of medical practitioners, it will, I think, be admitted,—First, that the duties of the general practitioner are not the least onerous or important; and, secondly, that the professional duties of the three classes being essentially the same, so ought to be their medical education—up, at least, to that point, which is considered sufficient to qualify for general practice."

The subject is one which demands the best attention of the profession as well as of the public.

Memorials of the Dead.—The floor of the church was interspersed with long patches of cement, which covered graves, and near one of the altars was a box with a glass case, within which were the bones of a woman, the wife of a lively old gentleman whom we were in the habit of seeing every day. They were clean and bright, as if polished, with the skull and cross-bones in front, the legs and arms laid on the bottom, and the ribs disposed regularly in order, one above the other, as in life, having been so arranged by the husband himself; a strange attention, as it seemed, to a deceased wife. At the side of the case was a black board, containing a poetical inscription (in Spanish). * * The widowed husband wrote several stanzas more, but could not get them on the black board; and made copies for private distribution, one of which is in my hands. Near this were the bones of a brother of our friend the cura of Ticul and those of a child, and in the choir of the church, in the embrazure of a large window, were rows of skulls, all labelled on the forehead, and containing startling inscriptions. I took up one, and

staring me in the face were the words, "Soy Pedro Moreno: un Ave Marialy un Padre nuestro por Dios, hermano." "I am Peter Moreno: an Ave Maria and Paternoster for God's sake, brother." Another said, "I am Apolono Balche: a Paternoster and an Ave Maria for God's sake, brother." This was an old schoolmaster of the padrecito, who had died but two years before. The padrecito handed me another, which said, "I am Bartola Arana: a Paternoster," &c. This was the skull of a Spanish lady whom he had known, young and beautiful, but it could not be distinguished from that of the oldest and ugliest Indian woman. "I am Anizetta Bib," was that of a pretty young Indian girl whom he had married, and who died but a year afterwards. I took them all up one by one; the padrecito knew them all; one was young, another old; one rich, another poor; one ugly, and another beautiful; but here they were all alike. Every skull bore the name of its owner, and all begged a prayer. One said, "I am Richard Joseph de la Merced Truxeque and Arana, who died the twenty-ninth of April of the year 1838; I am enjoying the kingdom of God for ever." This was the skull of a child, which, dying without sin, had ascended to heaven, and needed not the prayers of man. In one corner was a mourning box, painted black, with a white border, containing the skull of an uncle of the padrecito. On it was written in Spanish, "In this box is enclosed the skull of Friar Vicente Ortigon, who died in the village of Cuhul in the year 1820. I beseech thee, pious and charitable reader, to intercede with God for his soul, repeating an Ave Maria and a Paternoster, that he may be released from purgatory, if he should be there, and may go to enjoy the kingdom of heaven. Whoever the reader may be, God will reward his charity. Twenty-sixth of July, 1837." The writing bore the name of Juana Hernandez, the mother of the deceased, an old lady then living in the house of the mother of the padrecito.—*Stephens's Incidents of Travel in Yucatan.*

The Gatherer.

The Art of Living.—No experiment on cheap living voluntarily made, perhaps, ever went beyond that made by Dr Franklin. When a journeyman printer, he lived for a fortnight on bread and water; his expense being tenpence a week. At the end of the time he was stout and hearty.

Celebration of Victory.—Thomas Topham, the strong man of Islington, on the 28th of May, 1741, lifted three hogsheads of water weighing one thousand eight hundred and thirty-one pounds. This feat was performed in commemoration of the taking of Porto Bello by Admiral Vernon, in the presence of the Admiral and thousands of spectators.

Mrs Sigourney.—An American lady, of the name of Sigourney, has been lately heard of everywhere, and supposed to be a person of great literary importance, from her being mixed up with the touching description addressed to her by Mrs Southey, of the melancholy situation in which the Doctor then lay. The 'Story-Teller' gives an odd explanation, from which it would appear that the American lady has not acted the most delicate part in the world. We are assured the plain facts are these: "Mrs Sigourney, a perfect stranger, wrote to Mrs Southey to request her correspondence. Mrs Southey, having other objects to engross her thoughts, declined the honour, but simply and politely answered her inquiries as to Mr Southey's health. All this, of course, was under the recognised seal of private correspondence, which ought to have been considered all the more sacred from the way in which Mrs Sigourney had herself brought it about. "You may judge, then," says the narrator, "of Mrs Southey's astonishment, when she afterwards saw her letter not only printed in the public journals, *but interpolated with phrases implying intimacy, and ejaculations of pathos, not one of which she ever penned!*"

Antiquities of Gardening; Market Gardeners; Pigs.—In the 'Dictionnaire de Commerce' will be found the account of a singular privilege enjoyed by the common executioner of Paris. All persons who brought vegetables to the public market were compelled to pay him a certain toll. That functionary himself, with assistants, attended to receive the same, and used a novel mode of giving a receipt, by marking the amount with chalk upon the back of the person paying. These tolls were afterwards abolished, the public officer receiving compensation in some other way. Le Grand d'Aussy, writing in 1782, says, "There are yet many people living who can testify to this fact; and I have myself questioned several market gardeners on the subject, not very old men either, who remember having been thus marked in their youth." A similar custom formerly prevailed in Scotland, where the common hangman took toll of meal and coal, &c. in the markets of Dumfries, Edinburgh, and Inverness. Some other curious privileges were also possessed by the French headsman; for instance, when an execution had taken place within the territory belonging to a monastery, the holy brotherhood were compelled, besides other fees, to present him with a pig's head. He attended annually on St Vincent's day, walked first in the procession in honour of that saint, and, after the ceremony, received a pig's head, provided for that pur-

pose by the abbot of St Germain's. During the twelfth century, it was the custom of the inhabitants of Paris to breed pigs which were allowed to roam about the streets during the day-time; thus gaining a scanty living at the public expense, and at the same time creating an insufferable nuisance, which led to the following serious accident: On the 2nd Oct., 1131, as Prince Philippe, son of Louis le Gros, was riding between the Hotel de Ville and the church of St Gervois, a pig ran between the horse's legs, and frightened the animal so much, that the Prince was thrown from his saddle, and his skull fractured so severely that he died the next day. This accident caused certain police regulations regarding pigs to be promulgated. They, however, met with considerable resistance; the monks of St Anthony especially, on account of their patron saint being represented as attended by pigs, claimed to be exempted from the operation of the new laws, and ultimately succeeded in obtaining the privilege of being the only proprietors whose pigs were allowed to roam about the city. The public executioner was appointed to seize any pig found astray which did not belong to the holy fathers; and, upon taking it to the Hôtel Dieu, he exacted a fine of five sous from the owner, or decapitated the animal, reserving the head for his own emolument. —*Gardeners' Chronicle.*

Anecdote of Lord North.—The contemporaries of Lord North, even while they declared that he ought to be brought to the scaffold, gave him credit for extraordinary command of temper. Once, however, he lost all patience. The occasion was this:—A gentleman who was of the number of his parliamentary supporters having solicited an appointment, obtained it. "I have now," said he, "another favour to ask of your lordship," and he named a second situation which he coveted. "That," said Lord North, "you cannot have: it can only be held by a woman."—"I know it," replied the M.P., "but I want it for my wife. What your lordship has given will suffice for myself, but it will fall short if I have to make out of it an allowance for my wife and children."—"What," inquired his lordship, "do you not live with them then?"—"No," replied the other: "surely you are aware that I am living with Fanny D——."—"I knew no such thing," replied North; "our acquaintance must drop. I regret the appointment I have promised, but my word is passed;" and while he spoke he showed the applicant the door.

Burke a Dramatist.—Burke once mentioned to Mr Fox that he had written a tragedy. "Did you let Garrick see it?" inquired his friend.—"No," replied Burke; "I indeed had the folly to write it, but the wit to keep it to myself."

Modern Missionaries.—A man who is more fond of novelty than of honest labour, or of being always called plain Tom, or Dick, having a good stock of self-conceit, transforms himself into a preacher—he then expects to be styled Mr Thomas, perhaps the Reverend Mr Thomas, to be excused from work, and to look almost like a gentleman. I fear such motives as these may stimulate some for missionaries, both for at home and abroad.—*John Newton, Rector of St Mary's, Woolnoth.*

Queen Anne hunting.—Swift writes to Stella, on the 7th of August, 1701:—"I dined to-day with the gentlemen ushers, among scurvy company; but the Queen was hunting the stag until four this afternoon, and she drove in her chaise above forty miles, and it was five before we went to dinner."—*Jesse's Houses of Orange and Hanover.*

Don Carlos.—This prince, when Ferdinand the Seventh was dying, refused to give up his right to the crown, and continued after his death to declare that, as it was the gift of Heaven, he dared not abandon it.

Fatal Effects of Dining late.—Among the proximate causes of the death of Louis the Twelfth, a French author mentions that, instead of dining at eight in the morning, as had been his custom, after marrying the beautiful sister of Henry the Eighth, he did not take his dinner till noon!

Portable Gas.—The 'Censeur' of Lyons states that, at one of the late sittings of the Municipal Council, a trial was made of a new portable gas, to which its inventor has given the name of *hydroluminous*. The apparatus is very simple, and applicable to the *smallest candlesticks* as well as to the largest and most splendid candelabra. The light it gives is very fine, and it is so portable that it may be carried about with the commonest hand-candlestick.

— A weak decoction of gall-nuts has been found, by Chansarel, the best antidote in cases of poisoning by mushrooms. The tannin contained in the nuts forms an insoluble combination with the vegetable poison.—*Ann. of Chem.*

— A shock of earthquake was felt in the district of Loerrach, in the Grand Duchy of Baden, on the morning of the 25th ult.

TERMS OF ADVERTISING.

	£.	s.	d.
Eight lines	0	3	6
For every line additional	0	0	4
A quarter of a page	0	8	0
Half a page	0	15	0
A whole page	1	8	0

London: *Published by CUNNINGHAM and MORTIMER, Adelaide Street, Trafalgar Square; and Sold by all Booksellers and Newsmen.*

Printed by C. Reynell, 16 Little Pulteney street, and at the Royal Polytechnic Institution.